

Matt Welsh Full Text of Presentation

Rationale:

Traumatic events are events that may cause significant distress in a person's life, major change in his or her beliefs, or a search for positive meaning in that event. The impact of divorce on college students can be considered traumatic because it can lead to difficulty adjusting to college, trouble forming close relationship, or anxiety.

However, some college students who have experienced parental divorce may also experience posttraumatic growth. Posttraumatic growth is a concept that examines how a person searches for positive meaning, growth, benefits, or positive transformation after experiencing a traumatic event.

Attachment style and coping style have been thought to be factors related to posttraumatic growth. Studies have examined the relationship between attachment style and coping style and posttraumatic growth in cancer survivors, college students who have experienced a death loss, sexual assault survivors, political prisoners, Israeli youth exposed to terror incidents, wives of prisoners of war, Holocaust survivors, and those who lost a loved one in the September 11th attack. However, very little research has been conducted on whether attachment style and coping style are factors related to posttraumatic growth in college students who have experienced parental divorce.

This presentation will be a literature reviews that seeks to examine whether coping style and attachment style are related to posttraumatic growth in college students who have experienced parental divorce.

Methods:

Undergraduates who have experienced parental divorce will be given Tedeschi & Calhoun's 21 item Posttraumatic Growth Inventory to measure their posttraumatic growth. The 28 item Brief-COPE will be given to measure whether the college student has a problem-focused, active emotional, or avoidant emotional coping style. Brenner, Clark, & Shaver 36 item Experience in Close Relationships inventory will be used to measure the college students attachment style.

Data Analysis:

A regression analysis will be conducted to determine if there is a relationship between a person's coping style and attachment style and posttraumatic growth in a college student who has experienced parental divorce. The anticipated date of completion for the data analysis is Spring, 2014.

Results:

The anticipated date of completion for the results is Spring, 2014.

Discussion:

The anticipated date of completion for the Discussion is Spring, 2014.